

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, VS, VN

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC
JURISTS HOLDS "SEMINAR" IN PARIS ABOUT VIETNAM

REF: (A) USDEL JEC 30610 (NOTAL); (B) USDEL JEC 01621

1. THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC JURISTS
HELD ITS VIETNAM "SEMINAR" IN PARIS ON JANUARY 18-19,
AND AS EXPECTED ITS CONCLUSIONS WERE HEAVILY ANTI-GVN
AND ANTI-USG. (SEE REF A.) THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED
BY THREE WELL-KNOWN VIETNAMESE PERSONALITIES: PHAM
VAN BACH, PRESIDENT OF THE DRV SUPREME COURT; NGUYEN
VAN TIEN, PRG REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI; AND CATHOLIC
FATHER NGUYEN DINH THI, PRESIDENT OF THE "COMMUNAUTE
VIETNAMIENNE", A SELF-STYLED "THIRD-FORCE" GROUP IN
PARIS.

2. THE MEETING ADOPTED TWO RESOLUTIONS. THE FIRST
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CONDEMNED ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY

THE USG AND THE GVN. AS IN DRV PROPAGANDA, THIS DOCUMENT ATTEMPTED TO PUT THE RECENT COMMUNIST MILITARY ATTACKS INTO A CONTEXT OF THE VIET CONG'S "NATURAL RIGHT OF LEGITIMATE DEFENSE". THE SECOND RESOLUTION SUPPORTED THE CLAIM OF THE PRG TO BE EQUAL TO THE RVN UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT SPECIFICALLY DECLARED THAT THE PRG SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO NEXT MONTH'S GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF WAR ON A FOOTING EQUAL TO THAT OF THE RVN.

3. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE "SEMINAR" HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 20, THE MAIN FEATURE OF WHICH WAS THE PUBLICATION OF A LETTER BY PRG FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH ABOUT THE UPCOMING GENEVA CONFERENCE. (SEE REF B.)

4. THE "SEMINAR" GAVE PRG REPRESENTATIVE TIEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROPAGATE VIET CONG ARGUMENTS AT LENGTH. A STATEMENT OF HIS ON JANUARY 18 PROMPTED A SHARP REACTION THE NEXT DAY FROM MR. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG, THE ACTING HEAD OF THE GVN DELEGATION TO THE PARIS BILATERALS. (TIEN AND PHONG WERE COUNTERPARTS ON THEIR OPPOSING DELEGATIONS AT THE PARIS TALKS ON VIETNAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS.) PHONG CONTRASTED TIEN'S PROFESSED ADHERENCE TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT WITH THE CURRENT COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIONS. HE ALSO NEEDLED TIEN'S APPEARANCE AT THIS BLATANTLY COMMUNIST-LEANING SEMINAR, SAYING: "... IN A CONFLICT, WHEN ONE SERIOUSLY DESIRES TO RE-ESTABLISH A JUST AND EQUITABLE PEACE, ONE SEEKS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WITH ONE'S ADVERSARY AND NOT WITH INTERLOCUTORS OF ONE'S CHOICE AND ON ONE'S OWN SIDE."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE "SEMINAR" WAS REPORTED BY AFP AND DULY COVERED BY THE COMMUNIST DAILY L'HUMANITE, IT DID NOT RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION ELSEWHERE IN THE FRENCH PRESS OR ON TELEVISION. EVEN THE PUBLICATION OF MME BINH'S LETTER STIRRED MINIMAL INTEREST. AS THE OPENING GUN OF A PRO-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICIZE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS NOT A GREAT SUCCESS.
WILLIAMS

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